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3-17-03

Docket No. 4116

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR PATENT

OF: Ernst M. SPENGLER

| ART UNIT:1732

USSN: 09/929,693

| CONF. NO.: 8851

FILED: August 13, 2001

FOR: Method and Apparatus for Molding  
Components With Molded-In Surface  
Texture

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

March 6, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Dear Sir:

- 1) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 applicant encloses a Form PTO-1449, and copies of the references cited thereon, and a copy of a European Search Report issued on February 20, 2003 in a counterpart European Application.
- 2) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, to the best knowledge of the undersigned attorney, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).
- 3) The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months

prior to the filing of this statement, as seen from the European Search Report date of January 20, 2003.

- 4) Reference AE2 is in English. Reference AF2 is accompanied by an English Abstract. Reference AG2 corresponds to U. S. Patent 6,136,415, which was cited as reference AC in our Information Disclosure Statement of January 30, 2002 and from which the relevance can be determined in English. Thus no further discussion of the references is required.
- 5) Furthermore, reference AF2 discloses an apparatus with a heating station and a molding station. The molding station can include independently controllable heaters above and below the materials to be molded, so that a top layer and a bottom layer of the material can respectively be heated to different temperatures. The molding station includes a molding die to which a vacuum or a pressure can be applied to carry out vacuum molding or pressurized molding.
- 6) Moreover, the enclosed Search Report indicates the degree of relevance of each of the references AE2 to AG2 by category (A = technological background; and X = relevant for anticipation or obviousness when considered alone). Thereby, the requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance has been satisfied (see M.P.E.P. §609).
- 7) Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider all references of record, return an initialled copy of the enclosed

Form PTO-1449 and ensure that all references of record are printed on any patent issuing from this application.

- 8) Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1 to 35 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst M. SPENGLER  
Applicant

WFF:ar/4116  
Enclosure: postcard,  
Form PTO-1449,  
3 references, 1 Eng. Abst.,  
European Search Report

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

Anita Morse - March 6, 2003  
Name: Anita Morse - Date: March 6, 2003